Amendments to the Claims:

1 (Currently amended). Apparatus comprising:

a plurality of proximate devices each having:

an inter-device link which provides inter-device communication between each proximate device and said plurality of proximate devices;

a programmable frequency clock; and

a clock frequency controller which operates in a master operating mode and a slave operating mode and which couples said inter-device link and said programmable frequency clock and controls the frequency of said programmable frequency clock by:

(a) detecting a master operating mode and performing one of:

maintaining the current operating frequency as the master operating frequency; and

setting the frequency of said programmable frequency clock to a predetermined master operating frequency; and

(b) detecting a slave operating mode and:

(b1) receiving a frequency modify command indicating a desired operating frequency wherein the frequency modify command is initiated by a proximate device operating in the master operating mode and wherein the frequency modify command is coupled through said inter-device link;

(b2) ascertaining a difference in the desired operating frequency and a current operating frequency; and

(b3) setting the frequency of said programmable frequency clock to the desired operating frequency when the difference is ascertained[[;]].

2 (Currently amended). Apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said clock frequency controller of said proximate device operating in the master operating mode further controls the frequency of a proximate device operating in the slave operating mode by:

(c) recognizing the presence of said proximate device operating in the slave mode coupled through said inter-device link;

(d) identifying a unique frequency of operation for said proximate device operating in the slave operating mode; and

(e) transmitting a frequency modify command indicating the unique frequency wherein the frequency modify command is coupled through said inter-device link[[;]].

3 (Original). Apparatus of Claim 2 wherein the identification (d) of the unique frequency is based on a component of the unique frequency wherein the component is selected from the group consisting of: a fundamental component and a harmonic component.

4 (Currently amended). Apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said predetermined master operating frequency is determined by:

(a1) detecting a master frequency selection mode and:

(a11) selecting a master device operating frequency; and

(a12) negating the master frequency selection mode and setting a master frequency modify mode; and

(a2) detecting the master frequency modify mode and:

(a21) ascertaining a difference between said master device operating frequency and a current operating frequency; and[[;]]

(a22) setting the frequency of said programmable frequency clock to said master device operating frequency when the difference is ascertained[[;]].

5 (Original). Apparatus of Claim 4 wherein said clock frequency controller of said proximate device operating in the master operating mode initiates a change in operating frequency by:

recognizing a master reset command; and

setting the master frequency selection mode.

6 (Original). Apparatus of Claim 4 wherein the selection (a11) of said master device operating frequency is performed autonomically by:

(a111) selecting a candidate frequency from a plurality of available frequencies;

(a112) confirming the candidate frequency as acceptable; and

(a113) designating the candidate frequency as unavailable and reexecuting the selection of (a111) when the candidate frequency is not acceptable.

7 (Original). Apparatus of Claim 6 wherein the plurality of available frequencies differ by an amount equal to or greater than a predetermined frequency differential.

8 (Original). Apparatus of Claim 6 wherein the confirmation (a112) of the candidate frequency is based on a component of the candidate frequency wherein the component is selected from the group consisting of: a fundamental component and a harmonic component.

9 (Currently amended). Apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said clock frequency controller of said proximate device operating in the master operating mode resets the frequency of a proximate device operating in the slave operating mode by:

(f) recognizing a slave reset command;

(g) identifying a unique frequency of operation for said proximate device operating in the slave operating mode; and

(h) transmitting a frequency modify command indicating the unique frequency wherein the frequency modify command is coupled through said inter-device link[[;]].

10 (Original). Apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the slave reset command is an external command.

11 (Original). Apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said clock frequency controller of said proximate device operating in the master operating mode resets the frequency of all proximate devices operating in the slave operating mode and coupled through said inter-device link by:

(I) recognizing a slave reset all command;

(j) identifying a unique frequency of operation for each of said proximate devices operating in the slave operating mode; and

(k) transmitting a frequency modify command to each of said proximate devices operating in the slave operating mode indicating each of the unique frequencies wherein the frequency modify commands are coupled through said inter-device link;

whereby the operating frequencies of said proximate device operating in the master operating mode and each of the proximate devices operating in the slave operating mode are unique.

12 (Original). Apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the slave reset all command is an external command.

13 -24 (Cancelled).